

January 12, 2010

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF MEETING AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room  
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As determined at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies are not allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view is always a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light snack will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council  
MAG Management Committee

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA  
January 20, 2010**

	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3. <u>Call to the Audience</u>  An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.	3. Information.
4. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u>  Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).	4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

**ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT\***

*4A. <u>Approval of the December 2, 2009, Meeting Minutes</u>	4A. Review and approval of the December 2, 2009, meeting minutes.
*4B. <u>Status Report on the Performance Measurement Framework and Congestion Management Update Study</u>  Proposition 400 was passed by Maricopa County voters in November 2004 extending the half cent sales tax through 2025 and establishing legislative	4B. Information and discussion.

statutes that require MAG to develop a multimodal performance monitoring program for the regional transportation system. Beginning in 2010 and every five years thereafter, ARS 28-6313 requires the Auditor General to contract with an independent auditor to conduct a performance audit of the regional transportation plan and projects scheduled for funding during the next five years. The MAG Regional Performance Report completes Phase II of the Performance Measurement Framework and Congestion Management Update Study. A summary of analysis and findings is provided as well as an overview of the Technical Advisory Group collaborative participation on this process. Please refer to the enclosed material.

\*4C. Project Changes - Amendments and Administrative Modifications to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The fiscal year (FY) 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2007 Update were approved by the MAG Regional Council on July 25, 2007. Since that time, there have been requests from member agencies to modify projects in the programs. ADOT is requesting financial changes to three projects and adding a new pavement preservation project. Additionally, MAG member agencies are requesting changes to project limits related to federal funded projects, and requesting two new projects to be funded with STP-TEA funds; these projects were approved for funding by the ADOT State Board. Tables of proposed amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 TIP and RTP are enclosed. Each of the projects were heard and voted on for approval at their technical advisory committee. This item is on the January 13, 2010, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee.

4C. Recommend approval of amendments and administrative modifications to the FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program, and as appropriate, to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update.

\*4D. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Monthly Status Report

A Status Report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds dedicated to transportation projects in the MAG region details the status of project development. The report covers highway, local, transit, and enhancement projects programmed with ARRA funds and the status of project development milestones per project. The status report is still undergoing updates and will be provided to committee members at the TPC meeting.

4D. Information and discussion.

**ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD**

5. ADOT Budget Update

In November, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) announced layoffs of 115 ADOT staff to reduce expenses as part of an effort to balance a budget suffering from declining transportation revenues and legislative transfers. State transportation funding has been depleted by \$500 million in fund transfers and continued declines in transportation revenues. ADOT has closed rest areas, and announced a plan to shutter a dozen Motor Vehicle Division Offices. ADOT has been under a hiring freeze since 2008. It has cut operational and highway maintenance expenses, deferred maintenance and construction projects and implemented agency-wide furloughs two days per month for all employees to address budget shortfalls. On December 21, 2009, Governor Brewer announced that the FY 2011 budget beginning in July 2010 has an estimated budget deficit of \$3.4 billion. A representative from ADOT will provide information on how the revenue declines and budget cuts are impacting ADOT.

5. Information and discussion.

6. Unobligated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Local Funds - Technical Programming Modifications

Through the MAG committee process, discussions have been held regarding the anticipated

6. Recommend approval that the guidelines for programming unobligated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local funds that were approved by the MAG Regional Council on December 9, 2009, be modified in order that the local agency with the ARRA project savings will

unobligated Local/MPO American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds due to low project cost bids and projects not obligating by the March 2, 2010 deadline. An approval of policy and programming recommendations by the MAG Regional Council on December 9, 2009 addressed how unobligated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local funds (due to either projects not obligating or project cost savings) are to be programmed. Since the approval, the Transportation Review Committee met and has recommended further technical clarifications on programming to be addressed for the policy recommendation to move forward. This item is on the January 13, 2010, Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

7. Proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Legislation

On December 16, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2847 which provides additional infrastructure investments to stimulate the economy. The Senate is slated to take up the house bill in the near future and substantial changes could be made before the bill is passed by Congress and signed by the President. As passed by the House, an additional \$27.5 billion of funding for highways and \$8.4 billion for public transit are provided using the same allocation and process that were part of the first stimulus package (ARRA). One important difference is the dramatically shorter time frames to spend the funds. The new bill requires that one-half of the highway and transit funds need to be under contract within 90 days of when the funds become available. Under Contract means the project has been advertised for bid, bids received and evaluated, the bid award made, and the contract signed within 90 days. As an example, under ARRA, 50 percent of the funds allocated to state DOT's had to be obligated within 180 days. Obligation occurs when the FHWA authorizes the project to be advertised to bid. The 90 days deadline for half of the funds to be under contract also applies to funds allocated to local governments through MAG. The timing of

have local discretion to move the project savings to another existing ARRA project in that jurisdiction and/or swap the ARRA funds with ADOT-STP funds and move the project savings to an eligible project, that is above \$200,000 and can obligate before September 30, 2010, including new projects. Any jurisdiction that cannot meet the \$200,000 threshold and obligation deadline of September 30, 2010 will return the project savings to the regional pool for reallocation.

7. Information, discussion and possible action.

final Congressional action on another round of stimulus funding is unknown but March 2010 is being used as a rough target at this time. If the 90-day period remains to have 50 percent of the funding under contract, only projects that are through all of the approval processes required will be likely candidates for funding. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Topics or issues of interest that the Transportation Policy Committee would like to have considered for discussion at a future meeting will be requested.

9. Adjournment

8. Information and discussion.